

Montana Bison Hunt Application, Licensing, and Harvest Data 2005-2009

2005 (6,200 applications)

License Structure	Licenses Issued	Bison Harvested	% Harvest Success
50 ES	40 ES	40	100%

Notes: In 2005, there was only one hunting district (encompassing the current HD385 and HD395). Under Senate Bill 91 (2005), 16 licenses are offered to the 8 Montana Native American Tribes (2 each). In 2005, 3 tribes accepted the licenses, 10 licenses went un-issued. In 2006 and 2007, the unaccepted tribal licenses were reissued to state hunters by drawing. State tribal hunter harvest is counted in the State Harvest total (not Tribal Treaty Harvest). ES=Either-Sex; CC=Cow/Calf. There is no mandatory reporting of bison harvest. These data are based on anecdotal reports from bison hunters, FWP staff, and Buffalo Field Campaign.

State Harvest

	Bull	Cow	Calf	Unknown	Total	%
HD 385	21				21	
HD 395	18	1			19	
Total	39	1			40	100%

Tribal Treaty Harvest

	Bull	Cow	Calf	Unknown	Total	%
HD 385	6				6	
HD 395						
Total	6				6	

Note: Tribal treaty harvest is conducted under the 1855 Stevens Treaties. The Nez Perce Tribe (Idaho) and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (Montana) currently participate. Harvest success by tribal treaty hunters cannot be determined because the number of licenses issued by the tribes is unknown.

2006 (7, 125 applications)

License Structure	Licenses Issued	Bison Harvested	% Harvest Success
140	140	31	22%
95 ES (25-HD385; 70-HD395)	95 ES		
45 CC (20-HD385; 25-HD395)	45 CC		

State Harvest

	Bull	Cow	Calf	Unknown	Total	%
HD 385	18	1			19	42%
HD 395	12				12	13%
Total	30	1			31	22%

Tribal Treaty Harvest

	Bull	Cow	Calf	Unknown	Total	%
HD 385				26	26	
HD 395						
Total				26	26	

2007 (4,402 applications)

License Structure	Licenses Issued	Bison Harvested	% Harvest Success
Up to 144	82	63	77%
44 ES (18-HD385; 26-HD395)	44 ES (18-HD385; 26-HD395)		
Up to 100 CC (54-HD385; 46-HD395)	38 CC (0-HD385; 38-HD395)		

State Harvest

	Bull	Cow	Calf	Unknown	Total	%
HD 385	10	3			13	72%
HD 395	10	33	1	6	50	78%
Total	20	36	1	6	63	77%

Tribal Treaty Harvest

	Bull	Cow	Calf	Unknown	Total	%
HD 385	9	3		34	46	
HD 395	11	17		29	57	
Total	20	20		63	103	

2008 (3,079 applications)

License Structure	Licenses Issued	Bison Harvested	% Harvest Success
Up to 144	44	1	2%
44 ES (18-HD385; 26-HD395)	44 ES (18-HD385; 26-HD395)		
Up to 100 CC (54-HD385; 46-HD395)	0 CC		

State Harvest

	Bull	Cow	Calf	Unknown	Total	%
HD 385	1					2%
HD 395						
Total	1					2%

Tribal Treaty Harvest

	Bull	Cow	Calf	Unknown	Total	%
HD 385						
HD 395						
Total						

2009 (10,363 applications)

License Structure	Licenses Issued	Bison Harvested	%Harvest Success
Up to 144	44	1	2%
44 ES (26-HD385; 18-HD395)	44 ES (26-HD385; 18-HD395)		
Up to 100 CC (54-HD385; 46-HD395)	0 CC		

Note: The HD numbers were switched in 2009—HD385 is the West Yellowstone area and HD395 is the Gardiner area.

State Harvest

	Bull	Cow	Calf	Unknown	Total	%
HD 385	1				1	2%
HD 395						
Total						

Tribal Treaty Harvest

	Bull	Cow	Calf	Unknown	Total	%
HD 385						
HD 395				3 (NP)	3	
Total				3	3	